



July 27, 2016

Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213
Attention: William Jones

Via Email

RE: LOS ANGELES STREETCAR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (State Clearinghouse No. 2013011001) COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Jones:

Established in 1924, the Central City Association of Los Angeles (CCA) is Los Angeles's premier business advocacy organization, with 450 members employing over 350,000 people in the Los Angeles region. CCA was the primary architect of the Downtown Renaissance and has been a strong advocate for transportation projects that improve the quality of life for the people who live, work and play in Downtown.

CCA supports the LA Streetcar project. Downtown has grown as a transportation hub and as a major residential center. The area has built its residential and employment bases with younger workers, many of whom eschew automobile ownership. And Downtown has become a tourist destination. These factors have help drive the need for more and different types of first/last mile connections. The LA Streetcar will provide an ideal form of this mobility.

Additionally, the LA Streetcar is predicted to bring about significant economic benefits. This prediction includes an increase in development on and near the proposed route valued at \$1.6 billion with approximately \$250 million in new tax revenues predicted to be generated because of this new development. This is why voters along the route were willing to assess themselves to help pay for the streetcar construction through a Community Finance District.

CCA prefers the 7th Street alternative. Ninth Street is a major east-west road and Harbor Freeway off-ramp. Seventh Street is becoming "Restaurant Row" and the streetcar will serve as a mode for people at the Convention Center and South Park neighborhood to visit that destination. Finally, the 9th Street alternative opens the possibility of a new vote on the streetcar assessment.



CCA supports considering the inclusion of the Grand Avenue extension to Bunker Hill, a major employment center and home to numerous cultural institutions and tourist destinations. The property owners in that area should be asked to choose whether they wish to help contribute to funding through the Community Finance District.

In conclusion, CCA supports the Restoration of Historic Streetcar Service in Downtown Los Angeles for the environmental, economic and mobility benefits it will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol E. Schatz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Carol E. Schatz
President & CEO